WATER SUPPLY.

12. The most memorable work in connection with the extension of water supply is the work of taking a submerged pipe-line across the backwaters to Mattancheri. This work has been completed at a cost of Rs. 1·67 lakhs. From the technical point of view the work is of a unique kind. The extension of the pipe-line to Mattancheri will supply a long-felt need of the town for an adequate supply of fresh water. The harbour and British Cochin will also be benefited by this work. We have been supplying fresh water for harbour purposes and for ships by means of barges which transported the water from Ernakulam across the back-waters. This was found to be a very costly and unsatisfactory method. With the extension of the pipe-line to Mattancheri supply to the harbour will be made directly from the State main, and the Harbour Authorities have already undertaken the work of laying their distribution system. As a result of representations made, the Cochin Government have now agreed to supply a maximum quantity of one lakh of gallons per day of fresh water to the inhabitants of the British Cochin Municipality. The terms on which this supply is to be given have now been finally settled. British Cochin may look forward at an early date to a supply of fresh water for domestic purposes. The arrangements with the Travancore Government with regard to our taking a supply of water from the Alwaye River which have been pending for many years have now been satisfactorily settled. We have agreed to pay a royalty of Rs. 100 per annum for the off-take of nine lakhs of gallons of water per day, and we are permitted to take a further nine lakhs of gallons per day on the payment of a further royalty to be agreed upon mutually by the parties. This brings to a satisfactory close an affair which has been pending for many years.

13. The problem of an adequate water supply to the town of Trichur has engaged the earnest attention of the Government for some time. A scheme was prepared during the year under review and the concurrence of the Trichur Municipality was asked for putting the scheme into execution. Unfortunately the Municipal Council of Trichur have not yet satisfied the Government about the financing of this scheme. In view of the large demands on the funds of the Government it is not possible to start a scheme of this kind unless the financial burden is undertaken by the Municipality concerned. It is only when Government are satisfied that the Municipality in question is unable to bear such a burden that Government would step in with a contribution for the works. In the execution of the Trichur water supply scheme, Government are satisfied that the Municipality

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

is in a position to undertake the financial responsibility if only the Council will levy a reasonable rate of water tax. The Council has so far shown a reluctance to undertake this responsibility. Government must make it clear that the problem of water supply to Trichur rests now entirely with the Municipal Council and that Government have done all that they are expected to do in this matter.

SCHEMES OF DEVELOPMENT.

14. The electrification of Nemmara has been completed at a cost of Rs. 40,000 and power is now available in the rural area round that place. Work in connection with the electrification of Chittur is now under progress and the scheme will be finished during next year at an estimated cost of Rs. 68,000. The Government Stone-ware Works at Chalakkudi has been re-organised and the service of a Pottery Expert has now been secured at a very much cheaper cost. In spite of this reorganisation the results of its working are far from satisfactory. Apart from the difficulty experienced in selling the products, the unsatisfactory results are partly due to the inherent weakness of a business concern directly managed by Government. As one who has had the advantage of studying the results of Government managed industrial concerns and similar concerns privately managed I have no doubt in my mind that a Government managed concern has some inherent weaknesses which very often make success almost impossible. There is no doubt a great deal to be said for public ownership and State management of certain public utility undertakings. But, ordinarily, industry and business thrive most satisfactorily under private management. Government would be prepared to consider any reasonable scheme for the taking over of the Stone-ware Works by a company incorporated in the State. The Cochin Textiles Limited which started under the patronage of Government has commenced production and it is the means of providing employment to hundreds of people in and around the Ambalur village.

15. Recently there was a strike of the workmen of the Cochin Textiles Limited which happily has been settled amicably. I must here give a word of warning to employers and workmen alike about the potential danger that threatens the smooth development of industrial activities in India. The rapid industrialisation of the country has brought in its train industrial unrest which has manifested itself in the form of strikes and lock-outs. While the right of labour for collective bargaining and their right to resort to strike as the ultimate

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly